

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 451

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of C. Scott Mayfield, Sr. of Athens.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember one of the outstanding men in the history of the state of Tennessee, Mr. C. Scott Mayfield, Sr. of Athens; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a state or community is blessed with such a distinguished citizen as Scott Mayfield, a prominent businessman, farmer, civic leader, family man and great humanitarian; and

WHEREAS, Scott Mayfield began his meritorious life in McMinn County, Tennessee, the son of Mr. Thomas Brient Mayfield, Jr. and "Miss Goldie" Denton Mayfield; the son of a farm family, Tom Mayfield, Jr. began dairy farming in the early 1900s and by 1923 founded the first Mayfield Creamery, thus beginning the Mayfield dairy-family legacy; and

WHEREAS, young Scott attended Athens City Schools, then left the family farm to complete his secondary education at The Baylor School in Chattanooga, knowing full well the value of higher education, Scott returned to Athens to attend Tennessee Wesleyan College, where he was a member of a championship football team that was victorious in the Peach Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Scott continued his education at the University of Georgia and served valiantly with the U.S. Navy during World War II, then returned to McMinn County, the Mayfield family farm and his family's growing business; and

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WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of their hard-working father, Scott and his brother, Thomas “Tom” Brient Mayfield III, assumed the responsibility for the family’s creamery and the Mayfield family farm; together the Mayfield brothers brought their family business to the forefront of the American dairy products industry; and

WHEREAS, together, Scott and his brother, Tom III, possessed the elements necessary to create a world-class organization; the two combined cutting-edge dairy science with their business acumen to create a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, innovative production processes, and a modern marketing plan with the consumer’s interest in mind; and

WHEREAS, Scott and the other distinguished members of the Mayfield family have seen many “firsts” in their day; the Athens plant was the first to produce pasteurized milk sold on the routes between Knoxville and Chattanooga, was the first to produce milk with a year-round uniform flavor, and had the first mechanically refrigerated milk truck fleet in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, with Scott and Tom at the helm, Mayfield Dairy truly became a southern institution; acquired by Dean Foods Company in 1990 but still operated by the family, the distinct yellow Mayfield milk jug can be found throughout the southeast today, along with the company’s diverse dairy line that includes award-winning ice cream, frozen yogurt, and cottage cheese; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Scott gave unreservedly of his time and talents to all of the Mayfield family’s holdings; he served as general manager of Mayfield Jersey Farms, senior vice-president and board member of Mayfield Dairy Farms, Inc., and president and board member of Mayfield Realty Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Scott was as interested in the activities on the farm as he was the creamery and had a distinct interest in improving the breeding stock of Jersey cattle; producing many champion Jerseys himself, he served the breeding industry with distinction as a member and officer of national and state cattle organizations, and he generously shared his knowledge with local dairy farmers trying to improve their own herds; and

WHEREAS, for his exemplary efforts, Scott was the distinguished recipient of several top breeding awards, including the American Jersey Cattle Club's Master Breeder Award in 1966, and the Dairy Shrine's Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Award in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the dairy community as a whole will forever be indebted to Scott Mayfield, as he was a productive and influential member and officer of a host of industry organizations; he served with acuity as president and director of the Dixie Dairy Products Association, president and advisory director of the Southern Association of Dairy Food Manufacturers, board member of the Tennessee Dairy Products Association and member of the state Department of Agriculture's Dairy Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, fortunately for the dairy industry, Scott's retirement from the family business in 1990 did not signal his retirement from the dairy community as a whole; he continued to devote himself to the American Dairy Shrine Club and the McMinn County Junior Dairy Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of civic responsibility, Scott Mayfield has been described by friends as "a person of compassion, a thoughtful person who understood that he had the ability to make a difference by the things he supported"; and

WHEREAS, with great humbleness and gratitude, Scott Mayfield thought he was doing only what he should – giving back to the community he felt had given him so much; in the words of his son, "he just enjoyed contributing"; and

WHEREAS, Scott helped the Athens community understand the true meaning of philanthropy; he and his wife, Muriel, gave generously to endow institutions such as the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum and worked tirelessly to ensure the growth and development of the community they dearly loved; and

WHEREAS, Scott's service to the Athens community was virtually endless; he unselfishly devoted himself to seats on numerous boards and positions with many Athens-area organizations; he served as a board member of the McMinn County United Way and chaired the United Way President's Council, was president and member of the board of the Athens Kiwanis

Club, was president and member of the board for the Athens United Fund, was a member of the Athens Federal Savings and Loan Association board of directors, and was a valuable member and past board president for the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the laurels bestowed upon Scott Mayfield serve to demonstrate the tremendous appreciation the community had for this great man; he received the United Way's Dick M. Dyer Community Service Award in 1991, the State Friend of Extension Award from the University of Tennessee Epsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity also in 1991, the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee "Business Hall of Fame" Award and the City of Athens "Vivid Award" in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Scott's love for academics and his dedication to the advancement of educational institutions, both public and private, was evident; he realized early in life the importance of education not only for himself and his family but also for those around him; and

WHEREAS, his influence will be felt on the campus of Tennessee Wesleyan College and on the campus of The Baylor School for generations to come as he had an "unyielding belief that a mind is a gift, and that its development is a fitting and proper way of loving its maker"; and

WHEREAS, although a generous supporter of these two schools and board member of Tennessee Wesleyan College, Scott Mayfield's contributions to education in our great state extended far beyond the walls of these two fine institutions; he served as vice chairman and member of the Board of Regents for the Tennessee University and Community College System during the Alexander and McWherter administrations and was a trustee for the United Methodist Holston Conference, the governing body for United Methodist colleges; and

WHEREAS, described by those in academia as a true friend of the academic community, Scott was named Tennessee Wesleyan College's Alumni Man of the Year in 1976, was elected to the TWC hall of Fame in 1981, and was presented with an honorary Doctorate of Public Service by his distinguished alma mater in 1986; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that Scott was as comfortable in board rooms as he was at Hardee's with the self-appointed "Board" of men who gathered each morning to solve the world's problems; whether in an actual boardroom or with close friends, Scott's approach was simple – tell it like it is and deal with the tough facts head on; and

WHEREAS, those who had the good fortune to know him would say that Scott had a tremendous appetite for life, living a life that could only be characterized as full and abundant; there is no question that on most days Scott Mayfield enjoyed plenty and on some of those magnificent days his cup did overflow – but through it all, he remained true to his simple philosophy; and

WHEREAS, described as a big man with a booming voice that would fill a room, it has been said that Scott Mayfield had a heart bigger than all of that; *Daily Post-Athenian* Editor Emeritus and long time friend, Neal Ensminger describes well the legacy Scott Mayfield leaves behind:

"Bigness is an appropriate word for Scott Mayfield. He was big in physical stature and carried this trait into all his activities. It is impossible to define Scott's participation in industry, education, civic ventures, family efforts, church programs, and general concerns which spanned the state and nation without saying they were big. It is natural therefore that removing such an individual leaves a big vacancy. It also causes a big loss in our friendship circle. We are thankful Scott Mayfield passed our way"; and

WHEREAS, wherever you go in McMinn County, you will see the legacy Scott Mayfield leaves behind; from the signs directing one off the interstate to the new Mayfield Dairy Visitors Center of which he was proud, to the facades of the many institutions to which he and his wife, Muriel, contributed, his presence was and will continue to be truly "larger than life"; and

WHEREAS, Scott Mayfield not only demonstrated a great commitment to his community, but he also showed his firm commitment to God as an active and devout member of Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, of which he was a trustee for many years; and

WHEREAS, Scott leaves behind to celebrate his life a wonderful, colorful family; Scott married the love of his life, Muriel Shadow Mayfield, and for 51 years this union endured to stand as a testament to the power of love and family; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Mayfields are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built; the two were inseparable, enjoying and appreciating each and every day they had together – an example of love and devotion from which we all may learn; and

WHEREAS, left behind to celebrate their beloved father's life are two daughters and sons-in-law, Elaine and John Cathcart of Athens, and Clarice and Dr. Dean Baggett of Gallatin; and a son and daughter-in-law, C. Scott "Scottie", Jr. and Lisa Mayfield of Athens; Scott was preceded in death by one daughter, Miss Marilyn Mayfield, and one sister, Sarah Mayfield Smith; and

WHEREAS, Scott was the proud grandfather of six devoted grandchildren, Mariah Mayfield, Marilyn Cathcart, Lauren Baggett, David Lepchitz, Jr., Charles S. Mayfield III, and Michael Mayfield; and one great-grandson, Dylan Scott Mayfield; and

WHEREAS, Scott's life was filled with many blessings; his wonderful family, his many friends, his successful career, his leadership role on boards throughout the country, his opportunities to give in ways that pleased him were the foundations of his good life; and

WHEREAS, he was indeed a person of distinction, a person who made the world a better place; in his eulogy TWC President Jim Dawson said, "I think he was in tune with the Psalmist who taught us to number our days...not so as to demonstrate our ability to count, but that our days, when we are done with them, will have counted for something special"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; we will miss his warm smile, hearty laugh and firm handshake, but will remember how richly and warmly blessed we were to have had the opportunity to share in at least a small part of Scott Mayfield's meritorious life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we pause to remember C. Scott Mayfield, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his superlative career, dedication to his community, love for his family and tremendous appetite for life. His presence will be greatly missed in our state, but he leaves behind a significant legacy as a human being of purpose and commitment that we should all strive to emulate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Mayfield family with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.